Multi-drug Therapy

424 DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that there are about four million Leprosy cases in the country;

(b) whether multi-drug therapy is the quickest method to cure leprosy; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to cover all the patients by the multi-drug therapy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Currently 13.00 lakh leprosy cases in 48 endemic districts have been drought under multi-drug treatment. It is proposed to bring 76 endemic districts under multi-drug treatment (MDT) by 1990 and remaining 125 endemic districts by 1995. Balance 10 per cent of the cases in other 211 low endemic districts will be put on MDT by 2000 AD.

Air Bus deal

425. SHRI CHITTA BASU. Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a deal has been signed between the Government and the Air Bus Industries last year for the purchase of Air bus aircraft; and

(b) if so, details of the deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) With the Government's approval, Indian Airlines signed an Agreement with M|s. Airbus Industries, France, on 15th March, 1986, for purchase of 19 Airbus A-320 aircraft.

(b) The purchase Agreement envisages the delivery of 19 Airbus A320 Aircrafts, fitted with V2500 Engines manufactured by International Aero Engines. The delivery of aircraft will commence from April, 1989 and end in March, 1990. The total Project Cost approved by the Government for purchase of these aircraft including the related spare engines, spare parts and Ground support equipment is Rs 1238.37 crores including a fereign exchange content of Rs. 1142.23 crores. In the purchase agreement a provision has been made, whereby Airbus Industries is to arrange and supply suitable Airbus A300 and B-737 aircraft on dry lease, to Indian Airlines, number to be mutually decided to meet the interim capacity requirement of Indian Airline upto the delivery of the A-320 aircraft.

Railway Land leased out to businessman in Calcutta

426. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have leased out above 2 acres of valuable railway land to a Calcutta businessman in New Alipore area of Calcutta;

(b) whether the land remained vacant with the abolition of K.F. Railway (Kalighat-Falta) several years before and got vested in the Eastern Railway;

(c) whether Government of West Bengal is legally entitled to the said land; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to hand over the land to the West Bengal Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Calcutta Airport

427. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Calcutta Airport's share of the total air-borne